

THE SEEKER FOR DECEMBER 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



God With Us

*"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."*

Dear Caldwell Church Family,

Last Sunday we sang the first verse of the favorite hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," for the children during our Time with Young Disciples in worship. It was a beautiful moment as you, the congregation, softly sang the words to our little ones, teaching the next generation of the faithful growing up in our midst one of Advent's most precious traditions. The words to the hymn were written by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal Priest, in 1868, after a visit to Bethlehem and the Holy Land. Theologically, Brooks' words sum up what Advent is all about. He wrote the poem for the Sunday School children, and his organist, Lewis Redner, added the music. Neither of them ever expected their collaboration would last beyond the Christmas of 1868, let alone become one of the most beloved Christmas hymns of all time, and that fact makes me cherish it even more.

During the Advent season, the church prepares for the coming of Christ. God's people summon the courage and the spiritual strength to remember that the holy does indeed break into our daily lives. In ways both recognizable and barely noticeable, the grace of God meets us during this heightened season. Our challenge, our prayer, is to stay open to God's healing grace, and the way of peace.

*"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in."*

May yours be an active Advent, may your posture be one of leaning forward, watching, listening, anticipating the miracle of Emmanuel, God with us, each and every day. And may that promise alone, for which we wait along with the church universal, bless you with renewed hope this holy season.

*"O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel."*

Advent Blessings to all,

Ali



Alternative Gifts for Christmas and Holiday Giving

This year think about choosing an alternative gift for someone special .

Please checkout the Mission table in the Coffee Room
on two Sundays: Nov. 27th and Dec. 4th. You may choose to donate
to one or more of the following missions:

the Haiti Mission School

the Regional Food Bank

North Country Ministry

Heifer International

You will receive a card to give to your honoree.

Checks may be written to Caldwell Presbyterian Church.



Christmas Joy Offering

Each year, the Presbyterian Church (USA) takes four special offerings. The session and mission committee of Caldwell Presbyterian believes these are worthwhile offerings and agrees we should support them. The offering at Christmas is called the "Joy" offering This special offering is intended to help in two separate areas of need..

- ♦ It provides special assistance for clergy, their spouses and certain other church workers when normal assistance is not sufficient.
- ♦ It also provides aid to students attending racial-ethnic colleges and schools.

The offering will be taken on the two Sundays immediately preceding Christmas. Envelopes will be available in the bulletin.

Fellowship and Hospitality

Committee Members: Emilia Bernd, Helene Horn, Ann Kohland, Tom Jenne, Joni Steiner, and Jessica King (chairperson).

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am in the middle room at Caldwell Church. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of this committee to join us. Perhaps you would just like to help at some of the events we sponsor. If that is your choice please contact one of our committee members.

We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as Birthday Sunday for all people who have birthdays in the current month. A cake is provided which will be found in the refrigerator in the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee or if you prefer you may add other snacks as you see fit. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee etc.

Please check the Coffee Hour List in the coffee room each month. If you need to change your date, please try to trade your week with someone or call Tom Jenne at #716-870-0013.



December Coffee Hour Hosts

- 4 Dave Madden & Bonnie Kraham**
- 11 Hunsicker Family**
- 18 Melanie Quigan & Laura Chapman**
- 25 Jess King**



January Coffee Hour Hosts

- 1 Janie & George Green**
- 8 Sarah King & Mary Beth Tenne**
- 15 Dottie & Al Kopf**
- 22 Patti & Jeff Brozyna**
- 29 Joni Steiner & Gladys Tasker**



Youth and Family Activity Calendar for December

December 4 – Practice for pageant during Sunday school

December 9 - Christmas movie night with cocoa & popcorn

December 11 - Practice for pageant during Sunday school

December 18 – Pageant during church service.
Children's Choir Sings!

- o Dress rehearsal and practice at church at 9:00 a.m.
- o Christmas Caroling in the town. Meet in the middle room at 11:30. Remember to dress in layers depending on the weather.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 7:30

December 25 – No Sunday school



Join Us for Christmas Caroling!

Please join us at 11:45 on Sunday, Dec. 18th to go caroling in the Lake George Community.

We will meet in the middle room following coffee hour. Please bring a lunch to eat prior to caroling if you think you'll be hungry.

Everyone is welcome to come along!

You are invited to join Pastor Ali Trowbridge as she leads a **Ecumenical Advent Book Study** on Weds. at 12:30 starting November 30th. The study will be on "Names for the Messiah" by Walter Brueggemann. Bring a lunch for fellowship at 12:30, and the study will begin at 1:00 and end at 2:00.



THANK YOU!

Dear Caldwell Family,

How can I begin to thank you all for your generosity last month? I first learned of "Pastor Appreciation Month" when I began serving Caldwell two years ago, and I want the record to show that I think it's an exceptional idea! :-) I was deeply touched by your handwritten expressions of appreciation and your gifts! You know me well: gift cards to Ace Hardware, the movies, the Log Jam, Bella's Deli, and the Olive Garden; meats and cheeses from our favorite—Oscar's; perfectly ripened pears, specialty chocolates, and Moose Munch from Harry and David; a warm wool sweater which I absolutely adore, and a new white clergy Robe for the summer months when the sanctuary gets extra warm. WOW! "Thank you" hardly seems adequate. It is an honor and a privilege to walk the journey of life alongside each and every one of you.

Gratefully,

Ali

DEACON'S CORNER

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and helped to make the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. The Deacon's assembled and served 52 baskets this year! Sacred Heart Church served 80 baskets as well.

The Deacons have soup and freezer meals that we provide to folks who are home from the hospital or in need of some comfort food. If anyone makes soup or a larger batch of food that you would like to share and place in the kitchen freezer, please label the container with date and the kind of food that is inside.



The Deacons will be serving a Christmas lunch on Dec. 9th following food pantry to thank everyone who serves and assists with the food pantry throughout the year.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Christmas Dinner will be served at the church at 4:00 on Christmas Day. It is for folks who are alone, or small families. If you would like to help with the dinner, or want to reserve a space, please call the church

December 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Choir 7:00	2	3 Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon 9:30-3:00
4 Communion Christmas Pageant Rehearsal during S.S.	5	6 Supervisory Mtg. 12:15	7 Mission Committee Mtg. 2:00	8 Choir 7:00 CE Meeting 5 at Panera	9 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30 & luncheon 12. Movie Night 6:30	10
11	12	13 Deacon & Elder Gathering	14	15 Choir 7:00	16 Seeker Deadline	17
18 Christmas Pageant // Rehearse at 9. Christmas Caroling 11:45	19	20	21	22 Choir 7:00	23 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30
25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Happy Birthday

1 Sara Bunalski

4 Jessica King

10 Kim Cornelius

10 Sean Mannix

12 Tom Jenne

17 Kathy Duell

17 Marybeth Tenne

20 Karen Azer

22 Peg Earl

22 Todd Earl

25 Jesus Christ



PRAYER CONCERNS

Len Bunalski, Pamela Parrott, Lauren & Karen Azer, Justin & Alex Blanco, John Kohland, Jenne family, Ron Madeira, Peg & Les Edwards, KC Glenn, Raymond Becker, Ron Barrett, Louis Polermo, Jean Paul Michel, Liam, Charlie Fuller, Barbara Little, Mike McGlaughlin, James McHugh, Tom Treurniet, John Elmendorf, Judith Subisaretta, Andy Knoll & Melissa Thomas, Sue Weisman, Kaleb, Tom Parsons, Ursula, for the Seed Program in Haiti & for healthy crops to grow, for fire victims in Tennessee.

For Those Who Mourn:

Lesley Clemons & family

Pastor Ali & McClellan family

Beth Corriveau & Foster family

Sarah King & Strain family

Dana Power & Combs family



Those Serving In The Military:

John-Navy Seal

Hospital, Nursing & Retirement Homes:

Fort Hudson: Charles Sandora

The Pines: Marion, Mary

Adopt a Family

If you would like to participate, please take a mitten in the coffee room. Buy the gift and place it in an unwrapped box or bag.

If possible get a gift receipt.

Please bring it to the church by Dec. 11th. Thank you!



DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE HAITI MISSION SCHOOL



JOELLEN PARSONS AND HOWARD NICOLS

RESPOND TO NEEDS IN HAITI FOLLOWING THE HURRICANE

The crying need in the Jèrèmie area of Haiti following Hurricane Matthew's rampage was for three basics: food, shelter and pure water. Responding to those needs was a major part of JoEllen and Howard's recent trip. They brought a few tarps and purchased others in Haiti which they distributed to area residents.

They also brought 130 Sawyer Water filters with them. Each filter can process up to 175 gallons of water each day by simply pouring water into the bucket and then opening the spigot on the bucket and letting the water drain through the filter. They purchased the buckets locally and helped install the filters in the buckets. The filter buckets were then distributed to people in the area. In the picture at left, Howard is posing with a man who is receiving one of the filter systems. Meanwhile we continued sending food up to the Labastille area

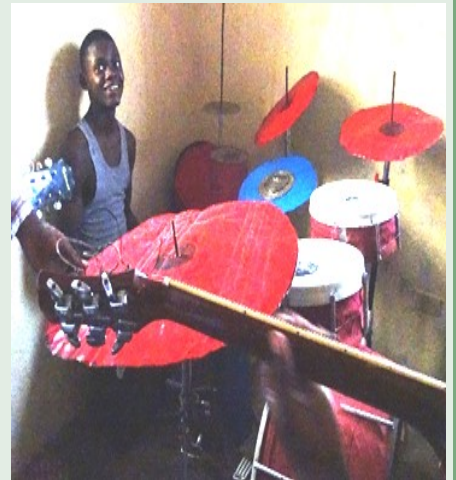
where the school had been and the food was then given to parents of our students.

In the hotel where Howard and JoEllen were staying, they met the director of the Haiti Medical Association. He had brought some medical teams with him and JoEllen asked if they would be willing to bring a team up to Labastille and provide some medical care. He agreed, and the next day the team saw more than 180 members of families of our students and other area residents.



They visited the church/orphanage at Chateau that Howard has been working with. There they brought food, medicine, roof tarps and bucket filters. In the picture at left, Howard and Junior Eustache are preparing the bucket filters to give to church members.

While there they also visited an orphanage in Jèrèmie where they serenaded by the children. They gave a bucket filter and a candle sent by the children of the Caldwell Presbyterian Sunday School. The young man in this picture accompanied the singing on his homemade drum set. The set is made from old bicycle parts and other things he could find, beg or borrow. It is an example of Haitian ingenuity which we see everywhere, particularly in difficult times such as this. Howard commissioned the young man to make another set for the church at Chateau.



These are but a few of the stories. Meanwhile we continue to send food once each month to the LaBastille area where the school had been. There the food is distributed among the parents of our students. The utter devastation of their fruit trees, fields and animals is heartbreaking. Little other help reaches the countryside. In another response to this need, they donated \$2,000 to a seed group established by Lindsay Anderson, one of our American friends in Haiti. By the time they left, this group had raised more than \$5,000 to establish a seed bank for area farmers. The need was immediate because the seeds need to be in the ground during this, the rainy season. Much of the seed is already distributed and in the ground. Hopefully, in three months' time, the farmers will be able to harvest their first crop and repay the seed bank with new seeds. We join the people seen and mentioned here and many others in thanking you for your continuing prayers, encouragement and support

Mission of the Month Update

Hello from the Mission Committee. We wanted to give you a quick summary of the events of the last few months.

August: Shelter Box We have raised \$861 towards the amount for a complete box. We would like to raise the additional \$139 in December. If you feel like helping, please note that Mission money should be put towards Shelter Box

September\October: Haiti Mission School We all know of the terrible hurricane that wiped out the school. Our congregation stepped up and got behind the school and Haiti disaster relief. During these two months, we raised \$11,938!!!

Haiti Water Project This was spearheaded by Charlie Fuller. His Eagle Scout project is to provide safe drinking water. This raised \$1102!

November: Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox Gifts) We were able to send 58 boxes to Samaritans Purse.

Alternate Gift table This will be in the Fellowship room 12/4. This will support the Regional Food Bank, North Country Mission, Haiti Mission School and the Heifer Project.

Community Dinner: We cooked dinner on 11/29 and served on 11/30 .

December: Shelterbox Our goal is to raise the final \$139.

Christmas Joy Special Offering By giving to this Joy Offering, you provide developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges .

As the year wraps up we want to thank you for your support of the various projects and charities that we have put forth this year. If you are interested in joining the Mission committee we meet at the church the first Wed. of the month at 2 pm. If you have suggestions or comments please feel free to email me at mark@mannixmarketing.com

Kids Corner

The Advent season is here! The Sunday school classes are busy preparing for our annual Christmas Pageant, which will be held on Sunday, December 18. Practices will be over the next few weeks during class.

We are very excited to now have a very active pre-school class on Sunday mornings. We are averaging 9 children in this class each Sunday!

Many thanks to the following people who have stepped up to make our Christian Education program the success that it is! In our pre-school class, many thanks to Yvonne Fuller, Julie, Mark and Sara Mannix , and Sarah King. Thanks go to Judy Guilford and Dana Power in our 1-6 class and Jeb Trowbridge, Howard Nicols and Tom Jenne with our 7th and up class. Thanks to Pastor Ali, Gretchen Amrock and Rachel, Tim and Sue Hunsicker for leading our Youth Group in some great activities. We'd love to add your name here. Please think about sharing your gifts and faith with our youth.

Blessings,

Judy, Sarah and Dana



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear Friends,

The preschool is all a bustle anticipating Jesus's Birthday. We are busy looking into the Bible as we learn about Angels (messengers, warriors, and protectors), and of how God sent His only Son to be born here on earth.

We have some exciting events coming soon:

- ♦ Dec. 2 & 14 Breakfast with Ali for parents
- ♦ Dec. 7 Concert at the High School 9:00 am
- ♦ Dec. 15 Christmas Program at El. School 11:30
- ♦ Dec. 19 Preschool Christmas Party

Thank you for your love and support of the Preschool

Serving with you,
Christine Sallstrom



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR , SANTA'S SHOP & LUNCHEON AT CALDWELL & THE METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 9:30 to 3:00.
Lunch will be served from 11:00 to 1:00

Pictures with Santa, Gift Shopping, Vendors, Baked Goods,
Children's Shopping & Games.

Vendors welcome, call the office to reserve a space.

Helpers and servers needed. If you have new or like new
gift items to donate that we could sell at the bazaar,
please bring it to the office
by Dec. 2nd.

Contact Helene Horn for questions.

The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845

All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email—pastor@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org